

stand, especially those heroes from south Texas: Kino Flores, Jim Solis, Rene Oliveira, Aaron Pena, Miguel Wise, Ryan Guillen and Juan Escobar. We support them.

ARMED FORCES DAY

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. This weekend is Armed Forces Day, and are not our men and women in uniform doing a great job.

I hear all this talk about the Texas Legislature. We have got a lot of deserters down there, the guys that are afraid to stand and fight like our armed services do.

Fox TV said, and I thought it was pretty good, and I paraphrase, they said, Are you not a Texas legislator? The guy answered yes. He said, Well, what are you doing in Ardmore, Oklahoma? The legislature meets in Austin, Texas.

It is a shame that we cannot have formal debate in our capital in Texas. Thank God we did not have those Democrats at the Alamo. God bless them.

TEXANS STANDING UP FOR PRINCIPLE

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I had some prepared remarks, but in response to my colleague's remarks about these 53 individuals not being at the Alamo, I would say this. They are exhibiting the same type of courage and bravery that the defenders of the Alamo exhibited on that eventful day. They are standing up for principle. They are saying our voices will be heard.

We are duly elected representatives of equal status with every member of the majority party in that Texas Legislature, and what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has attempted to do is export a corrupt and unfair system that in which we engage in this House floor to the Texas floor, and we have 53 brave and courageous Democrats that are saying, no, we will not allow the gentleman to export that kind of divisive political game into our House of Representatives.

So I applaud and I commend these individuals, and it is time that someone would say something. After all, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has indicated that Democrats are irrelevant. Each one of us in this Chamber represents the same number of people. Since when is anyone irrelevant in the Texas House of Representatives or the United States Congress?

CELEBRATING FUNNY CIDE'S RUN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the accomplishments of a man from my hometown in Marion County, Florida, the Sixth Congressional District, because Tony Everard has been training horses in Marion County for over 35 years.

He purchased a remarkable horse, a gelding, in 2001 in Saratoga, New York, and he trained it, but on May 3, this horse became champion at the pinnacle of horse racing, the Kentucky Derby.

His horse, Funny Cide, beat the odds with a stunning victory over favored Empire Maker and Peace Rules before more than 140,000 people at Churchill Downs, and none could be cheering louder than Tony and Beth, who named the champion gelding.

Funny Cide became the fourth Derby winner since 1997 to emerge from the Marion County breeding and training industry. I am proud of the long-standing heritage of horse training in my district. Tony and his wife Beth deserve many accolades for their work with Funny Cide and many champions to come.

PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today the House will debate H.R. 1000, the Pension Security Act, and the bill has an appropriate number because it will make employees 1,000 times worse off than they are today.

We need real pension reform that protects the pensions of all the workers and gives more protections to employees with 401(k) accounts. Real pension reform must include independent investment advice for 401(k) investors, the ability to diversify company-matched stocks within a year, and a voice for employees on pension boards.

Real pension reform must also include language that would require companies that are converting to cash balance plans to ensure that older workers receive the same amount of benefits they would have received under their existing defined benefit plan.

As the President has said, what is good for the captain is good for the crew. The bill as it is currently written allows executives to sell off their stock while the ship is sinking, while the workers see their retirement savings disappear.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the pension insecurity act.

PRINCIPLE ABOVE PARTISANSHIP

(Mr. TURNER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Texas Sen-

ate and the Texas House, I know the value that the 53 Texas Democrats who are in Ardmore, Oklahoma, today place on the proud tradition of placing principle above partisanship. When the Republican leader of the Texas House agreed to the political handiwork of the majority leader of the U.S. House, he abandoned a tradition that has served Texas well.

When Texas House Republicans drew a redistricting map without public hearings, behind closed doors, a map handed to them by Washington, they trampled on a tradition in Texas, and they trampled on bipartisanship, which has always been the hallmark of the Texas Legislature.

In Texas, the name Texan has always meant more than Democrat or Republican. The Texas Democrats from my area, Jim McReynolds, Chuck Hopson, Dan Ellis and Joe Deshotel, were denied the right to protect the interests of rural east Texas. They were shut out of the process, and they joined in breaking a quorum, a regular feature of American politics, practiced by none other than Abraham Lincoln as a member of the Illinois Legislature in 1840 when he had to do so when he was under the heavy hand of the majority.

All Texans who believe in fair play owe a debt of gratitude to our Texas legislators who have said to Washington today, Do not mess with Texas.

IS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION UNPATRIOTIC?

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I find it appalling that the majority leader of this body can in one breath suggest that our Texas heroes, the 53 men and women of conviction currently in Ardmore, Oklahoma, are unpatriotic and in the next breath suggest the Federal authorities be brought in to force them to pass someone's own political agenda, because what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) suggested yesterday is unpatriotic is actually an impressive example of the very fabric that holds this Nation together. It is everything our fathers and grandfathers have fought and died for in two great wars.

Mr. Speaker, is freedom of expression unpatriotic? Is the freedom to take a stand against recklessness unpatriotic? Mr. Speaker, when Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of the bus, was that unpatriotic? The willingness to take a stand for what is right is what defines America.

I would like to applaud my Democratic colleagues in the Texas House from Houston for having the courage to stand up to the gentleman from Texas' (Mr. DELAY) political agenda: Garnett Coleman, Rick Noriega, Jessica Farrar, Scott Hochberg, Joe Deshotel, Kevin Bailey, Harold Dutton, Joe Moreno and Senfronia Thompson. They are heroes, and the people of Texas are with them.